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COWBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1941

D. BROWN & SONS, PRINTERS, COWBRIDGE, GLAM.

COWBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cowbridge Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit the Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Rural District for 1941, made out to conform with Article 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, Article 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers' Order 1926 and Circulars 2514 (Wales) 2067 (Wales) and 2604 (Wales) issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

The Report has again been restricted to essential matters, and details of the work have been filed for future reference.

I desire to express my thanks to the Officials and Members of the staff of the Health Department for their assistance in the preparations of this report and for their ready help during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DAVID J. EVANS,

Medical Officer of Health.

21*st July*, 1942.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	40,020

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

	Total.	*Male.*	*Female.*	Crude Bir.R'te.
Live Births—Legitimate	.....	.....	.....	17.6
Illegitimate	.....	.....	.....	
Birth Rate for England and Wales				..... 14.2
Birth Rate of Administrative County of Glamorgan				..... 16.7
Birth Rate for Rural Districts in Glamorgan				..... 16.0

	Crude Death Rate
Deaths	12.6
Death Rate for England and Wales	..... 12.9
Death rate for administrative County of Glamorgan	..... 13.3
Death rate for Rural Districts in Glamorgan	..... 11.7

The 13 Still Births constitute a rate of 55 per 1000 total Births.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	0
Deaths from other Maternal causes	1
Total	1

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births	67
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	64
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	111
Deaths from Cancer (all causes)	16
Deaths from Measles	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1.—(*a*) MEDICAL OFFICERS—

D. J. Evans, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), Medical Officer of Health (Part Time), Medical Officer of Health for Cowbridge Borough Council, Certifying Factory Surgeon for the Cowbridge District.

R. Bruce Munro, M.B.,B.S. (London) D.P.H. (Wales), Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

(*b*) OTHER OFFICERS—

Ernest Whone, M.B.E., F.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

Hubert Thomas, A.R.San.I.,M.S.I.A., Additional Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

Miss E. Rawnsley, Health Visitor and Tuberculosis Visitor (whole time) Full General Training, Qualified Midwife, and Health Visitors Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

BIRTHS REGISTERED—

Legitimate Live Births	158	
Illegitimate Live Births	4	
Legitimate Still Births	5	
Illegitimate Still Births	1	
	—	214

NOTIFIED WITHIN 36 HOURS.

Live Births by Midwives	.....	162
Still Births by Midwives	.....	4
Live Births by Doctors	.....	—
Still Births by Doctors	.....	—

NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS—

Legitimate, under one year	.....	11
Illegitimate, under one year	.....	—
Legitimate, one to five years	.....	3
Illegitimate, one to five years	.....	—

VISITS PAID BY HEALTH VISITOR—

To Infants under one year		1st Visits	195
do.		Re-Visits	331
To Infants over 1 and under 5		1st Visits	3
do.	do.	Re-Visits	1,033
TOTAL		.....	1,562

ANTE-NATAL VISITS to mothers in their own home—

First Visits	 28	
Re-Visits	 40	Total 68

Puerperal Fever	-	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Measles	59	Whooping Cough	24
Hernia, Umbilica	2	Bronchitis	6
Influenza	12	Chicken Pox	4
Pneumonia	2	Mumps	6
Rickets	2	Scarlet Fever	—
Impetigo	—	Ringworm	2
Diphtheria	—		

Llanharan Child Welfare Clinic—

No. of Sessions held	26		
Number of names on Register	155		
First Attendances under one year	.....	93	
Repeat attendances under one year	.....	386	
First attendances one to five years	.....	60	
Repeat attendances one to five years	.....	223	
Total	.....	762	
Average attendances per Clinic	.....	29	

Llanharan Ante-Natal Clinic.—

Number of Sessions held	13		
First attendance expectant mothers	.....	60	
Repeat attendance expectant mothers	.....	68	
	Total	—	128
Average attendance per Clinic 10			

Llantwit Major Infant Welfare Clinic.—

Number of Names on Register	72		
First attendance under one year	.....	36	
Repeat attendances under one year	.....	72	
First attendances 1 to 5 years	.....	33	
Repeat attendances do.	.....	44	
	Total	—	185
Average attendance per Clinic	.....		15.4

Llantwit Major Ante-Natal Clinic.—

Number of sessions held	12		
Expectant mothers First attendances	.....	28	
Repeat attendances expectant mothers	.....	29	
	Total	—	57
Average attendance per Clinic	4·7		
Children under Infant Protection Act	Nil		

Dental Treatment for 1941.

Expectant or Nursing Mothers receiving Dental Treatment	17
Expectant or Nursing Mothers receiving Dentures	13
Children under 5 years received Dental Treatment	12
Child under 5 years sent to Bridgend Hospital of Tonsillectony	1
Orthopaedic Treatment	2

Maternity Hospital.

Number of Mothers sent to Hospital for Confinement under the Council's Scheme	38

Sale of Baby Food, Virol, Robaleine, etc., approximately £196.

Laboratory Facilities.

Samples of milk and water, specimens of sputum and swabs of suspected diphtheria cases etc. are sent to the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory.

Ambulance Facilities.

(*a*) For Inectious Cases.

The Ambulance attached to the Cefn Hirgoed Isolation Hospital is used for the removal of all infectious cases.

(*b*) For Non-Infectious Cases.

An Ambulance is obtainable from the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Cardiff. Collieries in the area have the use of the St. John's Ambulance at Pencoed.

(*c*) Maternity Cases.

Use may be had of the St. John's Ambulance.

Other Treatment Centres.

(*a*) Tuberculosis.

Residents in the area may attend the Clinics of the Welsh National Memorial Association at Bridgend or Pontypridd

(*b*) Venereal Disease.

Travelling expenses are paid for approved cases to attend Clinics outside the area at Pontypridd, Port Talbot or Barry.

(*c*) Mental Diseases.

Treatment Centres are provided outside the area at the School Clinic, Bridgend and the U.D. Council Clinic at Pontypridd.

(*d*) Orthopaedic Clinic.

The Orthopaedic Clinic at Bridgend is open to residents requiring treatment in this area.

Hospitals—Public and Voluntary.

General Hospitals.

Patients from the area can be admitted to (*a*) The Bridgend Infirmary, (*b*) The Bridgend Cottage Hospital, or (*c*) The Cardiff Royal Infirmary.

Orthopaedic Hospital.

The Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff, has a Convalescent Hospital at Crossways, Cowbridge, at which Orthopaedic cases are treated.

Maternity Hospitals and Nursing Homes.

No Maternity Hospital or Nursing Homes are situate in the area. Provided the Council receive an undertaking prior to removal, difficult cases can be admitted to the Bridgend Infirmary. The undertaking requires the repayment of the whole of the cost of hospital fees. Persons not in a position to pay are assisted by the Council. Difficult cases may also be removed to the Cardiff Royal Infirmary.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(*a*) Diphtheria.

The number of cases of diphtheria notified—nineteen is still low compared with former years. There were no deaths from the disease and no epidemics.

An immunisation campaign was made during the year. Parents of children under school age and of school were circularised and the Government gave the matter wide publicity over the wireless and in the daily press.

Active immunisation was carried out at 20 sessions held throughout the district.

Number of children immunised under 5 years of age	234
Number of children immunised over 5 and under 15 years of age	817
TOTAL	1,051

The programme is not yet complete and I hope next year will show a greater percentage of children immunised. The active immunisation all over the country will, undoubtedly, give good results in the coming years. The time and expenditure incurred is well spent and if the immunisation only prevents one child from having Diphtheria I will be well pleased.

Contacts of cases of Diphtheria are now almost always swabbed as a matter of routine by the Medical Practitioner attending. This proves a very useful means of preventing spread of the disease.

Anti-toxin is supplied free for all necessary cases from the Health Department.

(*b*) Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.

Two cases of Typhoid occurred in the same household. The mother succumbed to the disease. All measures to check the disease were taken and investigations made to endeavour to trace the source. Samples of the milk were taken and the water supply examined.

(*c*) Tuberculosis.

Twenty-three new cases were reported as compared with eighteen for the previous year. Disinfection is carried out on removal to Sanatoria or after death. The bedding is steam disinfected at the Birdgend Isolation Hospital.

(*d*) **Scarlet Fever.**

Eleven cases were notified, seven received hospital treatment.

(*e*) **Measles and Whooping Cough.**

There were 114 cases of measles and 34 cases of whooping cough. Two deaths from measles occurred.

(*f*) **Cancer.**

There were 16 deaths from cancer (all causes).

(*g*) **Cerebro-Spinal Fever.**

Eight cases were reported among civilians. Five were positive cases and one was ultimately diagnosed as pneumonia; one died of Tubercular Meningitis, and one died of Encephalitis Lethargia. There was one death from Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease.	*Total cases notified.*	*Cases admitted to Hospital.*	*Total Deaths.*
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	2	2	1
Scarlet Fever	11	7	—
Whooping Cough	34	—	—
Measles	114	—	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	8	8	1
Pneumonia	9	—	‡ 9
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Diphtheria	19	19	—
TOTALS	198	36	13

‡Al forms of pneumonia.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1941.

Age periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp/y.		Respiratory		Non-Resp/y.	
Years.	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1								
1—5			2	2				1
5—15	1		1	1				
15—25	3	3			1	2		
25—35	1	1		1	1			
35—45	1	1						
45—55								
55—65					1			
65 & over	2				2			
Totals..	8	5	3	4	5	2	0	1

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water.

(*a*) Number of informal notices served 54. Work done 54
No statutory notices were necessary.

(*b*) Properties provided with water under pressure 26

2. Fire Hydrants.

The fire hydrants are regularly inspected and defects remidied. All hydrants have been painted in accordance with instructions received from the Home Office.

3. Rainfall.

Rainfall for 1941 (Llanharan Station)	41.34 ins.
Rainfall for 1941 (St. Athan Station)	35.05 ins.
Average rainfall over last five years (Llanharan)	48.07 ins.

4. Water Samples.

Six samples of water were taken. The results may be summarised as follows :—

Five samples were satisfactory.
One sample was unsatisfactory.

The five satisfactory samples were taken from public supplies. In the case of the unsatisfactory result, action is being taken to secure an alternative means of supply.

5. Drainage and Sewerage.

(*a*) INSPECTION OF DRAINAGE. 521 inspections of existing and new drainage works were made.

(*b*) Number of drains choked and released 133.

(*c*) Connections to Council's Sewer during 1941 51.

(*d*) DISPOSAL WORKS. At one of the recently constructed works it was found necessary to employ an assistant sewerman to be responsible for the works.

At another works the loose stone wall of the filter bed had to be renewed with brick. The other works still operate fairly satisfactorily.

(*c*) SEWERS.—

(*a*) The manhole covers and frames in the highway have been periodically raised or lowered when roads are remetalled.

6. Rivers and Streams.

No complaints were received during the year, and it was not found necessary to take any action.

7. Closet Accommodation.

Ten earth or pail closets were converted to water closets. In eight cases the water closets were connected by drains to the Council's Public Sewers, while in the remaining cases they were connected to cesspools.

New public conveniences consisting of two water closets and two lavatory basins for ladies and two water closets and urinals for men have been provided.

8. Public Cleansing.

The contracts are as follows :—

House-to-house collections	9
Public Bins	2
TOTAL	11

A new site for refuse disposal was acquired during the year. The area has been fenced off and a roadway laid down. 18 inch diameter cement comcrete pipes had to be laid to convey the water from the stream passing through the ground.

9. Eradication of Bed Bugs.

It was not found necessary to disinfectate any premises or contents.

10. Schools.

There is no change to report under this heading. The general condition of the schools is good.

11. Workshops and Factories.

Fifty-three inspections were made. One Preliminary Notice was served and the work had not been carried out at the end of the year.

12. Petroleum.

One prosecution was made by the Council and a fine imposed. One new licence for the storage of petroleum spirit was issued.

13. Shops and Offices.

No action was necessary under this heading.

14. Cinemas.

The two cinemas in the area are regularly inspected.

15. Camping Sites.

One camping site was licensed bt camuping was not carried out on a very large scale.

16. Smoke Abatement.

No formal action was necessary.

17. Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no publicly-owned swimming baths in the area and no action was found necessary as regards the privately-owned baths.

18. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

See Appendix, Table No. 1.—

TABLE 1.

	No. of Inspections	Informal Notices	Work done	Work not done	Work in hand	Statutory Notices	Work done	Work not done	Workin hand	Demolition orders	Clearance Area
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	124										
Drains Inspection & Testing	521					14		14			
Meat and other Foods ...	44										
Cowsheds, Dairies & Milk sh's	151	7	6	1							
Housing ...	382	141	141								
,, recorded ..	1									3	
Public Health Act Nuisances	156	137	136	1		1	1				
Infectious Disease Inspectio's	105										
Disinfections ..	43										
Workshops, etc. ...	53										
House Refuse. Collection and Disposal	432										
Water Supplies ..	100	54	54								
Cinemas	1										
Petroleum	2										
Works in Progress ...	914										
General ..	2009										
Totals	5038	339	337	2		15	1	14		3	

Table No. 2 INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1.—*Milk Supply.*

(*a*) Number of inspections made at Cowsheds, Dairies and Milk Shops			151
(*b*) Informal Notices			7
(*c*) Work carried out			6
(*d*) Examination of samples for Bacteriological purposes—			
(*i*) Ungraded and Untreated	17		
(*ii*) Pasteurised	5	.....	22

2.—*Food and Drugs Act*, 1938. (*Milk and Dairies.*)

(*a*) Applications for Registration—			
(*i*) Producers	19		
(*ii*) Farms as Dairies	19		
(*iii*) Purveyors of milk	15		
	—		53
(*b*) Registration cancelled by reason of ceasing to produce milk			
(*i*) Producers	8		
(*ii*) Farms as Dairies	8		
(*iii*) Purveyors of Milk			
	—		16
(*c*) Number of Producers registered			290
(*d*) Number of Farms as Dairies			290
(*e*) Wholesale traders			1
(*f*) Purveyors of Milk			95

3.—*Food and Drugs Act*, 1938. *Section* 268 (*Ice Cream and Preserved Foods*).

Number of Licensed premises—

(*a*) For the manufacture for the purpose of sale of ice cream, or the storage of ice cream intend for sale	15	
(*b*) For the sale of ice cream	19	
(*c*) For the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed pickled or preserved food intended for sale	15	
	—	49

4.—*Milk* (*Special Designations*) *Order* 1936—1938:

(*a*) Number of Pasteurising Plants registered	1
(*b*) Number of Supplementary licences issued	1
(*c*) Number of Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk who bottle milk on their premises	1

(*d*) Number of producers of Tuberculin Tested milk 1
(*e*) Number of Producers of Accredited Milk who bottle milk on their premises 2
(*f*) Number of Producers of Acredited Milk 26

The Licensing Authority for the above (excepting *a*) is the Glamorgan County Council.

5.—*Meat and Other Foods*—

(*a*) Slaughterhouses, Meat Shops, Meat Vans inspected 44
(*b*) Total Meat surrendered for the year ..... 419 lbs.
(*c*) Total Meat Offal surrendered during the year ..... 62 lbs.

Table No. 3.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN DISTRICT IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED.

1.—*Interiors of Houses*—

a. Filthy Houses cleansed and whitewashed —
b. Houses in which repairs to plastering brickwork or woodwork have been carried out 31
c. Portable Boilers, Back Boilers repaired 15
d. Houses without sufficient means of ventilation, window openings or other means provided or repaired 27
e. Floors relaid or repaired 9
f. Fireplaces repaired 48
g. Ceilings refixed 11

2.—*Exteriors of Houses*—

a. Defective roofs made watertight 20
b. Houses without eaves - spouting provided or existing spouting and shutes cleansed and repaired 2
c. Damp Walls - Brickwork repaired or covered with impervious material 10
d. Dangerous chimneys repaired or repointed 7
e. Miscellaneous .... —

3.—*Drainage*—

a. Sink and sink waste repairs 25
b. Number of manhole inspection chambers provided to drainage system ..... —
c. Choked drainage system opened and cleansed —
d. Ventilation inefficient 5
e. New drains .... —

4.—*Privies, Water Closets, and Ashpits*—

a. Sanitary Pails provided	—
b. Choked water closets opened and cleansed	—
c. Defective W.C. connections made good	58
d. Baths and connections made good and flushing provided	5
e. Cesspools emptied	4
f. Offensive Urinals repaired	—
g. Repairs to structure of Sanitary Convenience	3
h. New Cesspools	—

5.—*Water Supply*—

a. Houses without a proper supply of drinking water, water laid on or repaired	55
b. Taps provided or repaired	12
c. Hot water services reapired	15